

News from the Farm Worker Movement (www.ufw.org):

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Cesar Chavez State Holiday California

Governor Gray Davis will sign the bill at:

Olvera Street Plaza, Downtown Los Angeles Friday, August 18 at 1:30 PM

Join the United Farm Workers:

Helen Chavez, Arturo Rodriguez, Dolores Huerta, Elected Officials and Community Members

Viva Cesar Chavez!!!!

Chavez's family and UFW successor at bill signing, hall Chavez holiday as unique.

The first paid state holiday in the nation honoring Cesar Chavez will be a fitting tribute to the legendary farm labor leader, his family and successor in the United Farm Workers say as Gov. Gray Davis prepares to sign the bill into law during a ceremony Friday in Los Angeles.

Under SB 984, by state Sen. Richard Polanco (D-Los Angeles), Chavez's birthday "won't be just another holiday," declares his son, Paul Chavez. "It will be a living tribute to my father."

In addition to a paid day off for state workers, the legislation provides for an hour of instruction around Chavez's March 31 birthday about the UFW founder's lessons on non-violence, self-sacrifice and social justice. Then, in the afternoon, students will engage in some form of public service appropriate for their age and grade. The bill provides \$5 million for AmeriCorps and the California Conservation Corps to help local school districts plan public service projects.

"We are grateful to the Chavez family and the UFW leadership for contributing the educational and public service concepts for memorializing Cesar," Polanco says. "They added an exciting dimension to the bill."

Helping others as part of the holiday observance "is what my father was all about," Paul Chavez says. "He didn't just talk about helping the poorest and most powerless among us change their lives; he went out and did something about it."

Who: Gov. Gray Davis, State Sen. Richard Polanco, many Chavez family members, Chavez's son-in-law and successor as UFW president, Arturo Rodriguez, and UFW Secretary-Treasurer Dolores Huerta.

What: Ceremony at which Gov. Davis will sign into law the Cesar Chavez state holiday bill.

When: 1:30 p.m., Friday, Aug. 18, 2000.

Where: Northwest corner of El Pueblo de Los Angeles Plaza near Olvera St. (at North Main St.), downtown Los Angeles.

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SANTA CLARA COUNTY HOLIDAYS

2004

Thursday, January 1, 2004

Monday, January 19, 2004

Monday, February 16, 2004

Wednesday, March 31, 2004

Monday, May 31, 2004

Monday, July 5, 2004

Monday, September 6, 2004

Monday, October 11, 2004

Thursday, November 11, 2004

Thursday-Friday, November 25-26, 2004

Friday, December 24, 2004

Friday, December 31, 2004

New Year's Day 2004

Martin Luther King, Jr Day

President's Day

Cesar Chavez Day

Memorial Day

Independence Day

Labor Day

Columbus Day

Veteran's Day

Thanksgiving

Christmas Day

New Year's Day 2005

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Paid Chavez holiday may go to ballot

Group to begin petition drive

Elvia Diaz
The Arizona Republic
Mar. 26, 2004 12:00 AM

Arizona residents could get a chance to vote on whether state workers will get a paid holiday in honor of Cesar Chavez, the late farmworker leader.

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A group called Arizona United on Thursday filed an initiative petition and will begin collecting signatures to put the issue on the November ballot. The group needs to gather 122,612 valid signatures by July 1.

"We have enough volunteers wanting to help us to do this," said Jim Lugo, a Glendale resident who's leading the effort. "Cesar Chavez was a great humanitarian. He deserves to have a paid holiday in his honor."

Lugo's group is the same one that had been seeking a ballot measure to keep Arizona bars open until 3 a.m. He said the group is abandoning that effort to focus on the Chavez Initiative. The state Legislature is moving toward passage of a bill that would keep bars open until 2:30 a.m.

About three years ago, Arizona joined other states to mark March 31 as a non-paid holiday for the Latino icon and organized-labor figure. This year, Phoenix will give workers a day off.

Born in Yuma, Chavez founded the National Farm Workers Association, which later merged with another farm labor union to become the United Farm Workers. He led California grape pickers on a successful five-year strike to protest poor working conditions.

Since his death in 1993, Chavez's birthday has become a paid holiday in California and a day of recognition in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Texas. Several counties and cities, including Los Angeles, Denver and Santa Fe, have followed suit.

Reach the reporter at elvía.díaz@arizonarepublic.com or (602) 444-8948.

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